

Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report GCE O Level Tamil (7644)

London Examinations
June 2004

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Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

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TAMIL 7644, MARK SCHEME

QUESTION 1: TRANSLATION FROM TAMIL INTO ENGLISH

This part of the paper is marked out of thirty.

- 25 negative marks, subject to usual deductions for errors and omissions
- 1 mark off for serious error or omission
- ½ mark off for minor error or omission
- up to 2 marks off for a phrase or part of a sentence which distorts the meaning of the message in the sentence
- up to 4 marks for spelling
- 5 positive marks for elegance/fluidity of expression

QUESTION 2: TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH INTO TAMIL

This part of the paper is marked out of thirty.

Marks should be distributed in the following way:

- correct decoding 7
- correct encoding 8
- linguistic accuracy 8
- cohesion/fluidity 7

QUESTION 3: SENTENCES TESTING GRAMMATICAL KNOWLEDGE

This part of the paper is marked out of fifteen.

Deduct ½ mark for each minor error.

QUESTION 4: SHORT ESSAY

This part of the paper is marked out of twenty-five.

Marks should be distributed in the following way:

- relevant content 10
- quality of language 10
- accuracy of spelling 5

TAMIL 7644, CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

General Comments

Considering the examination as a whole, the most striking weakness noticed in a large number of responses was, as usual, the inadequate command of literary Tamil. The main problems are with spelling and with the construction of sentences. The candidates who have obtained low scores are those who were unable to express themselves clearly either in Tamil or in English.

Question 1

The candidates were asked to translate a Tamil passage into English. Although some of the best responses were found in this question, there were instances where some candidates' lexical skills, in both Tamil and English, were apparently inadequate. Many candidates were unable to find the English equivalent for the Tamil words 'nature', 'customs' and 'civilisation'.

Question 2

Most candidates seemed to find this question more difficult than the first question. Mistakes in spelling and in simple structures were observed. Many candidates were unable to write correctly the Tamil equivalents for words like 'culture', 'society', 'experience' and 'universe'. Nevertheless, there were some good responses.

Question 3

This question, involving the translation of sentences into idiomatic Tamil, proved to be the most difficult for the candidates. None of the candidates were able to translate all sentences with an acceptable degree of accuracy. Low scoring in this section was primarily due to candidates not being comfortable with use of idioms in sentence structures. It was a little disappointing to see that many candidates were unable to translate, into Tamil, words like 'dispute', 'ceremony' and 'outcome'.

Question 4

The favourite topic among the candidates was topic (b) "The aims of education" while the next favourite was topic (a) "The wonders of nature". Most of those who attempted topic (a) performed well. Generally, the candidates had interesting experiences and ideas to express. However, inadequate linguistic skills and lexical competence of some candidates led to lower scores.

TAMIL 7644, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	70	55	40	35	26

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.

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